

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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R 031951 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8331

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0621

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GY CB

SUBJECT: VISIT BY GRUNK DELEGATION

REF: GEORGETOWN 0562

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GRUNK DELEGATION COMPOSED OF OK SAKUM (AMB TO FRANCE), CHAU SENG(MINISTER IN CHARGE OF SPECIAL MISSIONS AND SIHANOUK' S " SPECIAL ENVOY") AND TAN LEK HOR (SECRETARY AND INTERPETER) ARRIVED IN GEORGETOWN APRIL 18 AND DEPARTED APRIL 21. DURING THEIR SAY THEY PAID COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT ARTHUR CHUNG AND PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM, TO WHOM THEY PRESENTED ORIENTAL VASES, AND ENGAGED IN EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN S. S. RAMPHAL, WHO ESCORTED THEM ON CERMONIAL VISIT TO LAY A WREATH AT THE STATUES OF TITO, NEHRU, NASSER AND NKRUMAH WHICH WERE DEDICATED DURING LAST SUMMER' S MEETING HERE OF NON- ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS.

2. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT, TWO PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF N,- ALIGNMENT AND AGREED TO PRESS FOR THE RESTORATION OF CAMBODIA " TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE COUNCILS OF THE
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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY." CAMBODIANS EXPRESSED DEEP SATISFACTION THAT IT WAS AT GEORGETOWN DURING MEETING OF NON- ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS LAST AUGUST THAT " CAMBODIA HAD BEEN RESTORED TO ITS HONOURED PLACE IN THE NON- ALIGNED MOVEMENT." DELEGATION AND GOG DISCUSSED MATTERS WHICH WILL COME UP AT FORTHCOMING NON- ALIGNED PREPARATORY MEETING IN KABUL AND SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. FONMIN RAMPHAL TOLD AMBASSADOR SIHANOUK' S REPS MOST UNHAPPY WHEN THEY DEPARTED BECAUSE OF GOG' S REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK FORMALLY AND EXPRESSLY AS LEGITIMATE GOVT OF CAMBODIA. THEY SOUGHT RECOGNITION SUCH AS HAD BEEN EXTENDED BY CHILE. RAMPHAL SAID THAT WITH FULL APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HE HAD INSISTED THAT GUYANA PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH GRUNK THROUGH MECHANISMS OF NON- ALIGNED MOVEMENT. GUYANA HAD NOT FORMALLY RECOGNIZED LON NOL' S REGIME AND FELT NO NEED RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK' S. OTHER SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED UNHAPPINESS OF DELEGATION ON IT DEPARTURE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE FOREGOING, BURNHAM AND RAMPHAL HAVE BOTH REFLECTED IN SERIES PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS OVER PERIOD OF TIME CONVICTION THAT LON NOL' S DAYS ARE NUMBERED. THEY APPARENTLY BELIEVE SIHANOUK CONTROLS MOST OF CAMBODIA OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL AND THAT INEVITABLY HE WILL RETURN TO POWER BEFORE LONG. THEY DO NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE US UNNECESSARILY BY EXTENDING FORMAL RECOGNITION TO SIHANOUK, BUT AT SAME TIME HOPE TO MAINTAIN CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH GRUNK WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF NON- ALIGNED MOVEMENT. KING

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